

GOLDEN NUGGET



President's Message

Greetings Fellow Rockhounds,

We have a lot of things to go over so get our pen, paper, and calendars out. First up, our club is holding our February club meeting at the Wetumpka Civic Center, 410 South Main Street, on Thursday, February 23rd. The Wetumpka Impact Crater Commission is holding a lecture from Dr. David King on his work identifying the impact crater that shaped the topography of Wetumpka.

In this issue:

.....
President's Message

Program Director message

January Minutes

Board Members Info

On Saturday, February 25th our club will be touring the Impact Crater as part of the Crater Commission's program. Our club has secured approximately 30 spots on the Commission's 9:55 tour slot. The cost is \$25 for adults, \$15 for children under 18 years old. The tour is not recommended for children under 10 years old; the tour vans are not equipped for child seats and booster seats for the trip around Wetumpka. After the tour we have a group reservation at Rancho Grande restaurant in Wetumpka. Please RSVP to Chris Rutherford, as soon as possible. We only have a few spots left available. If you have RSVP'd you can go ahead and pay your fees to the City of Wetumpka. Please contact Valencia Johnson with the City at 334-567-5147 or vjohnson@cityofwetumpka.com . She has a list of our names of those who have already RVSP'd to the club.

On March 21, 2023 our club will return to the Crump Community Center for our regularly scheduled meeting on the third Tuesday of the month. We will have retired Auburn University geology professor Dr. Jim Saunders return for a presentation on the Geology of Diamonds, specifically the kimberlites and carbonatites of the Diamond Crater State Park in Arkansas. For those of you who might recall, Dr. Saunders spoke to our club several years ago about the gold fields of Idaho and the historic gold fields of central Alabama around Horseshoe Bend area.

Also, in March we are scheduling our annual shop clean-up day at the club workshop for Saturday March 18, 2023. We need as many hands as possible, and especially all the club members who routinely work at the shop, to come out at 9:00 am to help clean, organize, and repair equipment at the club's workshop. This is a weather driven event and is subject to change if it's raining or very wet.

On April 1, 2023 our club will be hosting a collecting field trip to the Hogg Mine in LaGrange, Georgia. This mine is about 2 hours east of Montgomery at exit 13, interstate 1-85. Turn south at the exit onto Highway 209 and proceed south 3.5 miles to the mine entrance on your right. The cost is \$35 for adults, kids 17 and under are free with a paying adult. Please arrive by 9:00 am and check in with a Hogg Mine worker for a brief safety briefing. We will be able to collect all the rose quartz, some beryl and some tourmaline that you want. The club will provide a hand cart to help carry out any large yard rocks you want or just help carry out a heavy 5-gallon bucket. The club will have bottled water and some snacks for club members on this field trip.

Chris Rutherford, President

chris-rutherford@sanderslead.com



Program Director Message

The speaker in March is Jim Sanders. He is a mostly retired geologist who grew up in Auburn, AL, and holds geology degrees from Auburn, Georgia, and the Colorado School of Mines. He taught geology for more than 30 years at Boise State University, Ole Miss, and Auburn. Also during his career, he worked in industry (for mining and consulting companies) and the U.S. Geological Survey in Denver. He is going to speak on "The geology of Diamonds and Kimberlites". He will also mention carbonatites, which are darlings of mineral collectors world wide.... It is a meeting not to miss!

Clare

Memphis Mineral, Fossil and Jewelry Show 2023

THE EARTH WIDE OPEN Sat. April 22, 9-6 | Sun. April 23, 10-5

**Rocks, Fossils, Minerals, Gems,
Lapidary Equipment, Jewelry and Beads**

Agricenter International
7777 Walnut Grove Rd.,
Memphis, TN

Presented by the
Memphis Archaeological
and Geological Society

f Adults - \$6, 2 day pass - \$8 12 & under - \$2 Scouts in Uniform - Free

<https://earthwideopen.wixsite.com/rocks> 901-921-3096 / 901-490-3575

January Minutes

The meeting was called to order by President Chris Rutherford. Guest Henry Blake and John Mosley introduced themselves and were welcomed to the meeting.

Chris said there was no newsletter this month due to Cynthia Wilson being hospitalized and in serious condition.

No minutes were published.

Iris McGhee delivered the treasurers' report and it was given to secretary for filing.

Chris asked if anyone would be interested in talking over the newsletter in Cynthia's absence.

Possibly on a permanent basis depending on Cynthia's recovery and/or desire to continue.

Magnolia Brown said she would give it try but had no experience and any help would be appreciated.

Violet gave the gem show update and said we issued 1918 tickets for admission over 3 days. Violet said this was one of our more profitable shows and thanked all those who helped to make it possible.

JoAnne Staley spoke up to thank Leslie for letting her know that the bumblebee jasper she purchased contained high levels of arsenic and to take precautions when she worked with it.

Clare Weil was introduced as our 2nd Vice President in charge of meeting presentations after having gone 2 years without one.

Chris delivered a power point presentation of all the highlights from last year and past events.

Chris gave some background information on himself. A professional geologist working for

Sanders Lead in environmental control. Sanders lead

not only recovers the lead from spent batteries but

is also the second largest plastics recycler in the

state. They also purify other elements from this waste such as arsenic.

Chris mentioned that a shop service was being planned for February with more info coming.

A group trip to the Sylacauga Marble Festival was suggested.

We are still trying to firm up a date for another trip to the Hogg Mine in either March or April.

As members of the Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies we participate in the Dixie Mineral Council field trips and our rotation date is October 2023.

As of now a collecting trip to the Uphapee Creek via Mel Barclay's cabin and property is the destination.

The meeting was then adjourned.



**The 7th Annual Athens, Georgia
Gem, Mineral,
Fossil, and
Jewelry Show!**

**March 3, 4, & 5, 2023
Grand Hall 8,
The Classic Center**

Board Members 2023

- * President: Chris Rutherford. 334.372.2507 president@mgms.club
- * First Vice President/Programs: Clare Weil 334.221.5211 clarecweil@gmail.com
- * Second Vice President/Field Trips: Jim Gaines 334.517.4566 gaines46@msn.com
- * Secretary: David Sherrod. 334.201.4460 dsher355@att.net
- * Treasurer: Iris McGeHee. 334.262.2197. irismcgehee2433@charter.net
- * Newsletter Editor: Cyn Wilson 334.322.5897. rockingw@htcnet.net
- * Webmaster: Frankie Boothman. 334.590.1222. webmaster@mgms.club
- * Director/Shop POC: Leslie Amato 334.324.7997 lgmato@yahoo.com
- * Junior Rockhound Rep: (open)

Gem Mineral & Jewelry Show:

Director: Frankie Boothman. 334.590.1222. spacetechnode@gmail.com

Contact Chair: Chris Rutherford. 334.372.2507 gemshow@mgms.club

Treasurer: Violet Jon 334.354.8795 violetfbjones2013@gmail.com

Publicity: Candace Rutherford. 334.467. publicity@mgms.club

Co-Chairs: Sabrina Hammond 334.452.6298.

sabrinahammond1@gmail.com

Greg Athey. 334.303.2051 gsa11459@gmail.com

FREE ADMISSION Food & Drink Available

Friday, Saturday & Sunday

 MARCH 17th & 18th 9am - 6pm	 MARCH 19th 10am - 5pm 
---	---

MAGMA *Land of The Sky*
GEM SHOW

Indoor and Outdoor Vendors

 <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Crystals•Gemstones•Moldavite•Fossils•Jewelry	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Minerals•Meteorites•Trinitite•Artifacts•Cabochons 
---	--

 *Thousands of Crystals, Books, Minerals
and Other Hobby Related Items!*

Land of The Sky Shrine Club

 **39 Spring Cove Road**
Swannanoa, NC 28778
Interstate 40, off Exit 55 

For Show Info and Vendor Spaces, Call: 828-779-4501
Sponsored by MAGMA and Jacquot & Son Mining
www.AmericanRockhound.com



MGMS Gem, Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry Show

Mississippi

Mark your calendar !

Our 2023 Show will be
at the TradeMart on the State
Fairgrounds in Jackson!

**February 25 and 26,
2023**

**Saturday – 9:00 to 6:00 Sunday –
9:00 to 4:00**